



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

2004 Coming Events...

Follow the Herd to Prairie Day!

Come learn about our prairie heritage

Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, September 11, at the Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, for Prairie Day! This special event will be held in and around the Shaw Nature Reserve's 250-acre re-created tall grass prairie. Hikes, interpretive exhibits, activities, music, games, teepees and crafts make this event both fun and educational! Hungry visitors will be able to purchase bison burgers, root beer, baked goods and kettle corn. Come join the fun! Prairie Day starts at 10 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children 12 and under, and Missouri Botanical Garden and Nature Reserve members.

Announcing the 2004 Deer Season Kickoff at the Sullivan MDC Office!

Stop by and meet our helpful staff, tour the building and take a look at the resources, literature, teaching materials and much, much more. Did you know that our agents can help you score that big buck? Want to see how you score at the laser shot station? Want to get information on free courses offered by MDC? We'll see you there Saturday, September 25, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, call (573) 468-3335.



*If you would like to receive this newsletter in the mail,
please call (636) 441-4554.*

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

September 2004

Volume 04, Number 09



Just Say No...

*By Tamie Yegge, Manager,
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center*



to fescue, that is! Are you tired of mowing every week during the summer? How about watering and the tedious job of weeding and fertilizing? Is there a section of your property that you don't really have to mow, except for the fact that it is full of weeds if you don't? There is an answer! Consider converting your fescue to native grasses and forbs. There are huge benefits to doing this—less mowing being on the top of that list!

With proper site preparation, which includes killing off the fescue over the course of a summer, a native grass and forb mix can be installed over the winter months to replace the fescue. These natives put a lot of energy into their root systems the first year, so be patient (an annual, like oats, can be put in the mix to prevent erosion for the first year). After two or three years, however, you will have a relatively maintenance free "lawn." The only thing you will need to do after that is mow the area once a year. This will keep down the "litter" of dead stalks that are left each winter.

Fescue is not very useful to wildlife, particularly when we mow it down to lawn height. Creating a new oasis of native grasses and forbs will benefit wildlife as well as you. The plants provide an excellent food source for butterflies and birds. Unlike cultivated flowers and shrubs, these plants tolerate wildlife very well because they are adapted for existence with the animals that use them. No more insecticides, fertilizer, or replacement of eaten shrubs!

Natives offer all sorts of choices...tall and short, lots of colors, shade tolerant to sun loving and everything in between. Plan your landscape by choosing the right seed mix for your site. You can get more information about planting natives to replace your fescue by calling the nature center or log onto our website, www.mdc.mo.gov and enter "fescue conversion" in the search window. Also check out the Grow Native! website at www.grownative.org and look for "Landscape Info" and "Plant Guide." There's also information about where to buy seed and plants.

If your neighbors are apprehensive, let them know the benefits and offer to mow the perimeter of your area so it looks more manicured. Education is your best defense. Better yet, encourage them to join you! Just think about how much time you can save. Use it to connect with nature and at the same time, help MDC in its mission to protect and conserve our fish, forest and wildlife resources.



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

4

Wild Edibles

Saturday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Almost everyone knows about wild edibles such as raspberries and blueberries. However, these are only a small part of Mother Nature’s larder! Busch Conservation Area is home to dozens of species of edible wild plants – many of them as nutritious and flavorful as the produce you can pick up at the supermarket. The trick is knowing which part of the plant to eat and the season when it should be cultivated. Join us as we appreciate nature’s bounty and learn about local wild edibles. (Reservations begin August 19.)

4

Mammal Trunk

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.


(All Ages) You might not be able to see them in the wild, but you can learn about mammals at our discovery table. See mammal mounts, hides, skulls and tracks of some of Missouri’s mammals. (Reservations begin August 19.)

10

The Demise of Freddy Frog

Friday7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Fredrick T. Frog passed away from the harmful effects of pollution. Join us for the funeral services as we mourn the loss of poor Freddy. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Frog Legs Anonymous. (Reservations begin August 25.)



10

An Evening with Old Mr. Whiskers

Friday7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Come join us for an evening of catfish fishing and share your favorite stories with other participants. Experienced or beginning anglers welcome. (A parent must accompany children under age 16.) Learn about different fishing techniques, equipment and bait choices to try to entice old Mr. Whiskers to bite. Valid Missouri fishing license is required. (Reservations begin August 25.)

11

Triple Try-Its

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.


(Brownies) Brownie Scouts can complete portions of What’s Out There? Animals 3, 5; Eco-explorer 1; Outdoor Adventurer 5. All are welcome and encouraged to check it out. (No reservations required.)

25

Clark Hike

Saturday8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

(Adults) Come out and join us for a wonderful 5.3-mile hike on the Clark Trail at the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will look for early fall colors and migrating hawks. The bluffs along the Missouri River give the hawks some excellent thermals to gain altitude during their southward migration. Learn how migrating hawks conserve their energy to accomplish their amazing journey to the warmer climates for the winter months. (Reservations begin September 9.)



25

Owl Prowl

Saturday6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls. Take a short stroll on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and, hopefully, call in some owls. We will have night vision glasses to aid in the identification of owls. Warm clothing is necessary for the walk portion of this program. (Reservations begin September 9.)

29

A Tree Is Nice

Wednesday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon


(Ages 3-4) How many ways can we use trees? We will explore some of the many ways and meet some trees up close and personal. (Reservations begin September 14.)

29

Persimmon: A Natural Treasure of Missouri

Wednesday6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Ages 15 & up) Discover facts and myths about the native Missouri persimmon. Can we predict this winter’s weather by examining the fruit? Come prepared to venture outdoors to select persimmons for eating. Will we need a frost so the fruit will not make us pucker? (Reservations begin September 14.)



Busch Volunteer Milestones

Ed Leutwiler750 hours

Penny Elder.....750 hours

Busch Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 300-1953 ext. 251
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS

May 1 through September 30

Friday through Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

October 1 through April 30

Friday through Tuesday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

These hours are subject to change.
Please call the range for updated hours.

CLOSED DAYS

Wednesday and Thursday

All State Holidays

RANGE FEES

Rifle/Pistol Range: \$3 per hour/per booth

Trap/Skeet Fields: \$3 per round/per person

Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per person for every set of three turkey targets

Special Use Permits: Please call to inquire.

Note: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit.

Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.

Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road
High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS

May 1 through August 31

Wednesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

September 1 through April 30

Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSED DAYS

Monday and Tuesday

All State Holidays

RANGE FEES

Pistol/Rifle Range: \$3 per hour/per booth

Trap Range: \$3 per 25 targets/per person

Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per hour/per person

Archery Range: \$3 per hour/per person

Range Special Use Permit: \$20 per hour/per permit

Building Use Permit: Inquire

NOTE: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit

Trap Ranges: No shot size larger than 7 ½

Pistol/Rifle Range: No center fire ammunition large than .50 caliber


Ear & eye protection is required on all ranges.

Throughout September, enjoy outdoor shooting sports during special summer hours at our ranges.

Archery *Rifle/Pistol* Shotgun Patterning* Trap/Skeet

Ranges are closed on state holidays and for special events.

For program information, check our website: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges



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For program information, check our website: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

8 “Missouri Deer Game”

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Ever wonder why hunting is one of the most effective wildlife management tools? Join in celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Month by playing the “Missouri Deer Game.” This game will illustrate a habitat’s carrying capacity and the effects of hunting on animal populations. Prizes will be awarded, too! (Reservations begin August 25.)

14 Conservation Frontiers: Aquatic Wildlife Sounds #48

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Ages 7-18) “Peep”...“jug o’ rum”...“click, click, click”...“peep”...“click”...“peep”...“jug o’ rum.” What is this – a new language? Nope! The sound your car makes when it breaks down? Not even close! Come find out about this interesting sound at this month’s Conservation Frontiers activity. Bug spray is recommended. (Reservations begin September 1.)

15 Toddling into Nature: Alphabet Nature Journal

Wednesday 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-5) What better way to learn the alphabet than by discovering nature’s alphabet. We will create our own ABC nature journals with our findings from our outdoor search. Materials provided. (Reservations begin September 1.)

18 Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Scouts) Sure – trees are fun to climb, but did you ever stop and take a closer look at one? We will look at trees’ growth rings, learn to identify some common trees by their leaves and get to know our local trees a lot better. **Webeles:** Outdoor Group Forester 3, 4. **Brownies:** What’s Out There? Plants 2, 4. **Juniors:** Let’s Get Outdoors: Earth Connections 3, 4, 8; Explore and Discover: Science Discovery 5. (No reservations required.)



20 Homeschool Special: Nature’s Patterns

Monday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Can math + nature = fun and learning? You bet it can! Some plants and animals follow mathematical patterns, which help them succeed in nature. Join us as we look at how the world is patterned. We’ll meet at the Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center for this program. Call for directions. (Reservations begin September 8.)

25 Families: Discovery Hike

Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(All Ages) Come explore with us as a naturalist takes you on a hike on Trail Among the Trees. We’ll explore some unique habitats and learn some of the history here at Rockwoods. We’ll also discover some of the hidden secrets nature has to offer. Dress for the weather and bring your camera and field guides. Please wear sturdy shoes. Trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin September 9.)

25 Fall Flowers Hike

Saturday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) A walk along our inviting trails is an ideal way to get to know Rockwoods Reservation. The character of the trails changes with the seasons; in the early fall, revel in the brilliance of many spectacular wildflowers. Join us as we take a hike and enjoy their beauty on our trails. (Reservations begin September 9.)

26 Wild Edibles Hike

Sunday 9:30 a.m. – Noon

(Adults) Join us as we head out to search for the fall edible fruits of the forest at Rockwoods. We’ll hike the Rock Quarry Trail and see what other edibles we can find. Bring your field guides and wear sturdy shoes. (Reservations begin September 10.)



801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

7 Retiree River Ramble

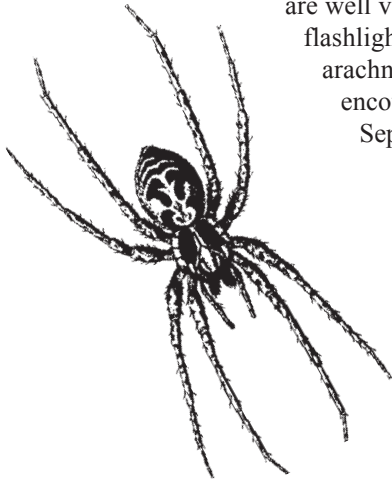
Tuesday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 60 & Up) Calling all folks over 60! Enjoy a leisurely hike with other seniors to discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. We will look at butterflies, plants and birds and everything in between. This month we will be on the lookout for Monarch butterflies migrating to Central America. (Reservations begin August 25.)

24 Spider Sniffing!

Friday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) You have to see this one to believe it! Bring the whole family to learn about the amazing world of spiders. Once you are well versed in spider-ology, we will take our flashlights and go Spider Sniffing. Those with arachnophobia (a fear of spiders) are especially encouraged to attend. (Reservations begin September 10.)

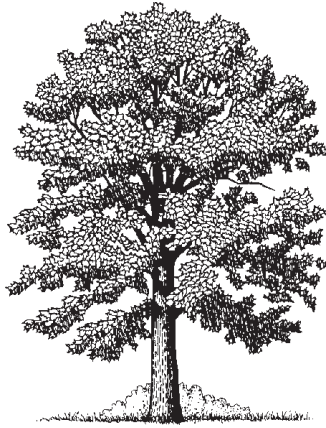


25

Johnny Appleseed

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) You are invited to a birthday party for Johnny Appleseed! Did you know he traveled about planting trees? Discover what trees need to grow big and strong. We will learn about trees through songs, games, crafts and food. (Reservations begin September 10.)



27 Seeds: Nature’s Mighty Energy Storehouse

Monday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7-12) Are you hungry? Do you “eat like a bird”? Do you munch and crunch like a deer? Visit the cropland kitchen and find out how seeds are food for animals and for you, too! Examine the inside of a seed and see how a new plant starts its life cycle. Discover the many ways that seeds travel from place to place. Please bring an old white sock to collect seeds with. (Reservations begin September 10.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

Aug. 30 & Sept. 13-Nov. 29
More Quilting Nature

Mondays 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Adults) We will finish the wild flower quilt started last fall and start a new one. Please bring quilting needles, scissors and a thimble. (Reservations begin August 16.)

4 Scout Discovery Table:
Bird ID/Flyways

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Scouts) **Wolves** can complete Birds (Elective 13d). **Webeles** can complete Outdoor Group: Naturalist #3 and #5. **Junior Girl Scouts** can complete Let's Get Outdoors: Wildlife #3 and #8. All are welcome and encouraged to check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

6 Hiking at Powder Valley:
Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Join a volunteer naturalist to see what birds, trees and flowers we might find. (Reservations begin August 23.)

11 Ask the Naturalist

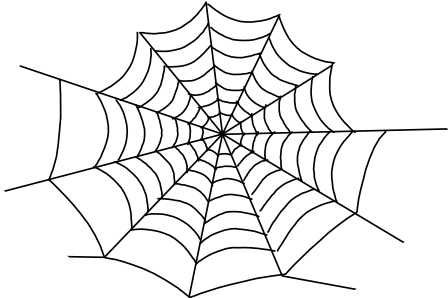
*Saturday 10:30 a.m. – Noon &
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*

(All Ages) Have you seen, heard or found a critter or a natural object and can't figure out what it could be? Well then, just ask the naturalist! (No reservations necessary.)

15 Itsy Bitsy Spider

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) Who likes spiders? We do! Join us as we explore the world of spiders. We will look for spiderwebs along the trail and then make a spider craft to take home. (Reservations begin September 1.)



HOMESCHOOL

15 Arthropod Investigators

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Explore field, forest and pond to examine invertebrates. We'll practice "catch and release" collection methods. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin September 1.)

17 Night Critters Hike

Friday 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us as we hike two of Powder Valley's trails in search of creatures of the night. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin September 3.)

18 Woodblock Leaf Prints

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(Adults) Learn about leaves and the art of woodblock printing. Identify and draw leaves outdoors. Come in and carve your favorite leaf's image into a woodblock. Practice making prints from the woodblock carving. All materials are provided. (Reservations begin September 3.)



20 Hiking at Powder Valley:
Broken Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Join a volunteer naturalist to see what birds, trees and flowers we might find. (Reservations begin September 6.)

Attention:

Various sections of the exhibits at Powder Valley will be closed from October 18 – 29 for cleaning and repair. Please pardon the inconvenience.



NATURE AND THE ARTS
Visiting Artist Series

We've transformed our popular Resident Artisan program into the Nature and the Arts Visiting Artist Series. This changeover will be a showcase for a variety of high quality arts, encompassing not only visual arts and crafts but also the performing arts. This series will help visitors increase their understanding and appreciation of our natural resources through alternative ways of learning. It will show connections between nature and the arts and provide role models for a life in the arts and nature.

We are looking for artists to participate in this new series. If you're a visual artist, photographer, craftsperson, performer or musician and your work relates to the fish, forest or wildlife of Missouri, you're encouraged to apply! This series will offer participating artists compensation for skills and time; publicity; visibility; a venue for display or performance; sales and cash awards; and the opportunity to share your talents and skills. You can do this through teaching, demonstrating, performing and displaying your work. The program may take place on selected weekends, evenings or during traditional school hours, depending on the type of art, the project proposal and the needs of the nature center.

Interested artists will be asked to submit an application, resume, project proposal and examples of their work. For more information or to request an application packet, contact: Janice Starke, Interpretive Programs Supervisor, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center.



September Hallway Exhibit
Pauline Blandina, O.P.
Artist

Powder Valley is pleased to host the artwork of Pauline Blandina, O.P. A Dominican Sister of Sparkhill, NY, Blandina was born and raised in St. Louis. After 30 years as an educator, Blandina began her second career in 1991 as a full time artist. As a self-taught artist, she was first captivated by watercolor media. A growing portfolio and new fascination for portraiture led Blandina to drawing and painting classes at St. Louis Community College.

Blandina's exhibit includes both originals and prints of our natural world. Stop by Powder Valley and enjoy the artwork of Pauline Blandina, O.P. Blandina will exhibit her work in our hallway gallery throughout September.

Concert by Carter and Connelley

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Saturday, October 9, 2004
7 p.m.

Reservations begin September 13

Join us for an evening of music with Carter and Connelley. This singer/songwriter guitar duo performs acoustic rock to bluegrass with spoken word interludes. Original compositions highlighting their love of the natural world make up the bulk of the writing. Every song or reading has a story, a purpose, an inspiration. Their love of the earth and family, respect for those who have gone before, and interest in Native American beliefs are evident throughout. Their CD, *Songs From The Seventh Direction* takes its title from a Lakota legend revealing the hidden location of inner strength and wisdom within each person. These are truly songs from the heart. Curt and Tom like to call it "environmental music with a message."

CDs will be sold and an autograph session will follow the concert.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Joan Hummel.....3200 hours
Arta Kirk.....700 hours
Edward Liesenfeld.....600 hours
Bill Maass.....3300 hours

Jack McGinnis.....4200 hours
Jayne Parsons.....1600 hours
Doris Peters.....400 hours
Mary Piotraschke.....1600 hours

Joe Schleeper.....1300 hours
Cindy Taylor.....400 hours
Dave Mostajo.....100 hours